

other preparations in being made with the decorticated kernel. The others are made with the entire bean, both spermoderm and kernel. It is therefore very active, as the active principle resides chiefly, if not exclusively, in the kernel. An objection to Dr. F.'s formula is that the quantity of menstruum ordered is not enough to exhaust the kernel of its energy. Dose M v.; this is equal to gr. iij. of the kernel. M xv. have been given without inducing extreme effects.

A second tincture distinguished from the former, by being only half the strength, is made from ζ v of the bean, in fine powder, and Oj of rectified spirit, by maceration for a fortnight.

From the tincture is made the *charta* or paper, intended for ophthalmic purposes. Soft bibulous paper, or very much better, gelatine or cacao butter is dipped in the tincture and then set aside; when needed, a disk about half the size of a finger nail is cut off, and put under the lower eye-lid. The gelatine or cacao butter, as I said, is very much the better substance as it dissolves away in situ. When paper is used it should be removed after ten minutes.

While upon the preparations I may add that the *powder* of the bean has been used in the dose of gr. j—iv. Gr. v. have induced alarming symptoms. Gr. xii are the largest amount, I know of, from which recovery has followed. Prof. Christison on one occasion experimented upon himself with this formidable quantity. The powder is objectionable, for when long kept it is apt to vary in strength from dynamical changes or the attacks of mites; it is also slower in acting from being less quickly absorbed than the extract or tincture.

Suppositories, each containing half a grain of the extract, may be made with oil of Theobroma and white wax. And lastly, an *infusion* has been applied as a parasticide against pediculi.

The plant that furnishes the bean is found in Western Africa, chiefly at a small settlement, Calabar, after which the bean is called. This settlement is on the left shore of the old Calabar river. The plant is a runner or climbing herb of large size, ascending upon the neighbouring trees and bushes; by means of these it often overhangs the river,—and the beans, when ripe, drop down, and floating upon the river, considerable numbers may be gathered from its surface. The plant is also found along the banks of other streams. It thrives best in a swampy soil. It is called *Physostigma Venenosum*, and received its name from Prof. Balfour, of the Edinburgh University. The bark is harmless. The sap from a fresh wound is first astringent and then acrid to the taste. The leaves are eaten by goats without any deleterious effects ensuing. The foliage is profuse and forms rich festoons. The flowers are decandria diadelphica,